AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) A method for methane fermentation treatment of an organic wastewater containing a sulfur compound, comprising the steps of:

adding an oxidizing agent to the organic wastewater to oxidize the sulfur compound contained therein to sulfur;

subjecting the organic wastewater after the oxidizing step to an anaerobic treatment step for methane fermentation thereof; and

controlling a feeding rate of the oxidizing agent to be added to the wastewater using a concentration of residual oxidizing agent in water flowing into the anaerobic treatment and/or a concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a biogas generated in the anaerobic treatment step as an indicator;

wherein when the concentration of hydrogen sulfide in the biogas generated in the anaerobic treatment step is used as the indicator, the oxidizing agent is added such that the concentration of hydrogen sulfide is 3 % or less.

14. (New) The methane fermentation treatment as recited in claim 13, wherein at least one member selected from the group consisting of ozone, hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite and a bromine based oxidizing agent is used as the oxidizing agent.

15. (New) A method for methane fermentation treatment of an organic wastewater containing a sulfur compound, comprising the steps of:

adding an oxidizing agent to the organic wastewater to oxidize the sulfur compound contained therein to sulfur;

subjecting the organic wastewater after the oxidizing step to an anaerobic treatment for methane fermentation thereof; and

controlling a feeding rate of the oxidizing agent to be added to the wastewater using a concentration of residual oxidizing agent in water flowing into the anaerobic treatment step and/or a concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a biogas generated in the anaerobic treatment step as an indicator;

wherein when the concentration of the residual oxidizing agent in the water flowing into the anaerobic treatment step is used as the indicator, the oxidizing agent is added on the basis of at least one indicated value selected from the group consisting of residual ozone concentration, residual hydrogen peroxide concentration, residual chlorine concentration, residual bromine concentration in the wastewater and oxidation-reduction potential of the waste water.

16. (New) A method for methane fermentation treatment of an organic wastewater containing a sulfur compound, comprising the steps of:

adding an oxidizing agent to the organic wastewater to oxidize the sulfur compound contained therein to sulfur;

subjecting the organic wastewater after the oxidizing step to an anaerobic treatment for methane fermentation thereof; and

controlling a feeding rate of the oxidizing agent to be added to the wastewater using a concentration of residual oxidizing agent in water flowing into the anaerobic

treatment step and/or a concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a biogas generated in the anaerobic treatment step as an indicator;

wherein at least one member selected from the group consisting of ozone, hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite and a bromine based oxidizing agent is used as the oxidizing agent; and

wherein when the concentration of the residual oxidizing agent in the water flowing into the anaerobic treatment step is used as the indicator, the oxidizing agent is added on the basis of at least one indicated value selected from the group consisting of residual ozone concentration, residual hydrogen peroxide concentration, residual chlorine concentration, residual bromine concentration in the wastewater and oxidation-reduction potential of the waste water.